

# The Point

The Fitchburg State College Newspaper

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## Auto break-ins create concern

By Julie Jepsen

FSC has had a numerous amount of car break-ins since the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year. According to Brian McCullough, the Chief of FSC Police, FSC students have encountered twenty-two break-ins during the Fall 2002 semester alone. Although most of these have occurred down at the Civic Center, students are still being affected. The Civic Center was hit the most with seventeen break-ins, then North Lot I with three, and Ross only had one. The average number of car break-ins each school year is approximately forty-four.

Campus Police do rounds through each lot all throughout the night. They don't have a certain amount of times they check each lot because it all depends on how many other calls they receive throughout the duration evening. When the break-in began happening more and more frequently down at the Civic Center, the officer would make sure they checked the lot at least every hour if not more frequent. They were going to place surveillance cameras in the parking lots and increase the lighting, however the number of break-ins decreases once the lot was patrolled more frequently.

Most of the car break-ins are believed to have been done all by one person. However, not all break-ins were done in the same manner. Some cars had smashed windows, the dash all torn apart and items missing. While other cars were broken into with some sort of device, nothing damaged or broken just items missing. Erica Prance's car was broken into and she states, "Why did this happen to me? My entire dash was ripped apart just for my radio. I am now kind of scared to leave my car on campus."



Could this happen to your car?

The most common items stole by the thefts is electronics, which are easy to turn around and sell. Some of these common electronics are large speakers that sit in windows, CD-players along with cases of CD's, and cell phones, along with any money. Most vandalism suspects are found however very few thefts have been caught. Many students have helped out a great deal just by being an extra pair of eyes and ears; this is known as Community Policing.

When a student's car has been vandalized or broken into certain procedures take place. "We don't want to revictimize the victims, so we let the student know that it is nothing personal and we try to make them as comfortable as we can," stated McCullough. The students are then allowed to park their vehicle at the Police Station. Plastic is then taped over the holes to conceal the vehicle from further theft.

Overall, Campus Police is doing their best to prevent such car break-ins. They have installed emergency phones all through campus as well as saturating their patrols through many areas. According to McCullough, "There is only so much that can be done to prevent these crimes from happening. If the thieves are sitting in the woods watching for when we leave, the proficient ones will only take 3-5 minutes to complete their task."

## Budgets cuts beyond words

By Andy Levine

For once, English teachers are at a loss for words. Due to the budget cuts the school has to deal with, the English department is concerned with the stability of their program. The English professors teach not only students majoring in some of aspect of English, but the majority of other students fulfilling college requirements at some point need to be taught by those professors.

Last year, three faculty members retired from the English department, Bill Keough, Nancy Yee, and Marilyn McCaffrey. In an effort to save the state money, an early retirement legislation was introduced. That was the first freeze, as the department could not hire to replace the faculty who took advantage of the early retirement plan. Dr. Keough and Dr. Yee opted for the state's early retirement plan.

This year, Robert Tapply is retiring. In the fall, the English Department asked the administration to allow them to advertise for two full-time tenure track professors. This was approved. The positions would replace the people who retired on the regular retirement plan, Professors McCaffrey and Tapply.

The English Department structured the replacement positions as an English Education position and a British Literature position. This was done because that is where their most important needs lay. The English Department had also had two full-time temporary faculty members this year, and also received the approval to hire one full-time temporary faculty member next year.

After the college learned that the state budget cuts would amount to \$4-6 million dollars, President Rivard made the decision to cancel the faculty hiring that was still in progress. For the English department, this meant the two tenure-track searches and the one-year temporary search.

After the state legislature passed the budgets, our actual cut is \$5 million. President Rivard explained to the English Department that there is no way to make those cuts without it affecting personnel. The main logic behind this was that it is easier to not hire people than to let a faculty member go.

A year ago, the English department had 21 full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty positions; now they are down to 17. If each faculty member teaches the full load of four courses per semester, that is 16 sections per semester. All freshmen take Writing I and Writing II and all students take at least one literature course for the LAS program.

Right now, the English Department has about 140 majors in four tracks (literature, professional, writing, secondary education and theater) and about 100 minors. They will, of course, be allowed to hire adjunct faculty to cover many classes. However, they had no choice but to cancel some classes for the fall semester. The English Department will have to raise the enrollments in the sections.

"We are concerned about how both of these actions could impact the quality of the students' educational experience," Roberta Adams, the English Department Chair.

A distinct apprehension to the department is it's program in secondary education. As a result of both Marilyn McCaffrey and Robert Tapply were our clinical education professors. Dr. Nancy Kelly will be teaching some of the secondary education courses next year. Kelly is experienced in this area, but the program really needs a dedicated professional in English Education to oversee this program.

The second position that is frozen is British Literature. This is important because the core of our curriculum for English majors is in the area British Literature. All majors take a minimum of four courses in this area. It is also not uncommon to take more British Literature classes, depending on a students particular track.

"We hope that the budget situation in the state will improve and that we may have these positions restored to us next year. Increased enrollment will also help," says Adams.

### Also In This Issue

Letter from the Editor.....	2
Editorial & Comic.....	3
A Letter from SGA.....	4
CLS Major Cut.....	4
SGA Election Results.....	5
Listen to the Band.....	6
'X-2' Review.....	7
Style with Holly Johnson.....	8
MASSPIRG / Star Search.....	9
Campus Creations.....	10
WWE in Worcester.....	11
Softball Champs.....	12



I'm here sitting at the computer, staring at the blank screen, waiting for the words to come to me. I bet if I put on my pj's and snuggled into bed that I'd be struck with an idea and my mind would start racing. But, alas, I am too stubborn, perhaps determined, to get into bed before writing my final letter as Editor-in-Chief of "The POINT."

That's right folks, Editor Amy is turning over the reigns. No, I'm not graduating yet, but it's time for me to pass this on to something new. "The POINT" has been through a lot in the past few years. Renovations of the design, changes in leadership, and even use of new and working (Thank Goodness) computers. Time does fly. I've been Chief Editor for two years now. Some say it's better since I came on, some say worse. I say different. I've learned several very important things through this experience.

The only thing constant is change itself. As of May 2003, "The POINT" will be changing hands once again. It is my pleasure to introduce Julie Jepsen as your new Editor-in-Chief. Ms. Jepsen is not only one of the hardest workers at "The POINT," she is also one of my best friends. She will be starting her sophomore year as a Graphic Design Major. Julie is a diligent student and also is one of FSC's Orientation Leaders. She was the Editor-in-Chief of her high school newspaper and has shared many wonderful ideas with us. I have no doubt that Julie will continue in "The Point's" tradition of change.

Now that I've introduced Julie and gotten 'business' out of the way, let me share a few thoughts of my own. Being the Editor is hard work, I kid you not. I've had long nights and fights with computers in the early morning, but that's not what this is about. I'm not going to bore you with my complaints. Instead I'd like to share some of the more positive aspects of my involvement. My work with the newspaper has allowed me to form lasting relationships with members throughout the college and the community. It's about those people. I write, I work for those people. In all truth, I write and work for myself as well so that I may continue to form and sustain these relationships.

Nothing gives me more joy then plunking away at the keyboard, thoughts practically jumping on the screen. After what I believe is a few moments, I look over at the clock and discover I've been writing for hours. A full page is as comforting as a full stomach after devouring a home cooked meal. My computer devours my words, and I hope my readers at least take a taste of my thoughts.

I'd like to thank those who have provided me with these words, supported my ideas, and aided in our mission. First and foremost, I must sincerely thank my devoted staff. They put in hours each week on top of their already busy schedules. Researching, interviewing, writing, and production. It's all got to be done, and each week I'm amazed that it does. I've already introduced Julie. Now I'd like you to meet the rest of "The POINT."

Melissa Ganley has done a fine job on production and rising to the responsibility. Sports would not be complete without the writings of "Orlando" and Robin L. Kanter. They're real pros. Kristine McCaffrey has been willing to take on anything that is needed her. I could never get enough of her snappy and clever editorials. She's got a way with the words. Our Graphic Designer, Stephanie Renaud, is one of the most devoted staff members. Attending every meeting even though there is not always graphic work for her, she's shown her dedication to our project.

Kate O'Neil keeps us laughing with her "Tour Group" comic. If you like it as much as I do, let Kate know, so she'll continue her zany drawings next year. Tim Card always fills us in with the latest in MASSPIRG and often covers the political spectrum. And Stephanie St. Jean plays the entire field, picking up a music review, features story or just copy-editing.

This is "The POINT." We take pride in our work. My small staff creates miracles each week by doing more than what is expected of them. I turn around for one minute and the pages are filled.

I owe much gratitude to "honorary" members and supporters of "The POINT." I'll try not to make this an Academy Award acceptance speech, but there are people who need to be thanked. And as Editor-in-Chief, I can do what I want with this space, at least this one last time.

Tullio, where would we be without you? Always just a phone call, e-mail or a short walk away when I have one of a million questions for you. Your guidance and kind words have not been forgotten. You are truly "The Point's" greatest friend.

Our advisor, Doris Schmidt, regularly supplies us with ideas and words of wisdom from the newspaper world. Whether is stories from her class or stylebooks, this professors knows her papers.

I must express gratitude to President Michael Rivard and Gail Wyatt as well. Whether it's keeping us posted of all the happenings, allowing us last minute interviews, invitations to special events or just a smile and wave in the halls, their kindness and support has given my staff and me inspiration. They do not choose to hide, but rather share information and stories with "The POINT." They know they are here for the students and never miss an opportunity to acknowledge that.

Thanks to SGA as well. Without them, well, you'd have no paper. They fund us, but they do so much more than that. SGA plans and holds events. Weekly Senate meetings have fostered the growth of relationships between organizations. In short, they inform us of how to inform you, our readers. (Quick thanks to Adam Howe for keeping me smiling with his silliness at Senate.)

And our readers. What more do I need to say? You've kept us in business. I remember the times when paper sites would remain full week after week. But now they are nearly empty. You are reading our words. That is the greatest job of all. In times of discouragement, an empty distribution site begging for new or more papers gives us the most profound inspiration to keep on going.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Andy Levine, my Partner in Crime. As Managing Editor, Andy is my right hand man. Andy puts his heart and soul in to "The POINT." Andy, too, is stepping down from his position and he will be very missed.

I met Andy in my freshman year at FSC. We quickly became friends and three years later, here we are. When we get together we make one rule, no newspaper talk, but that's all we ever seem to discuss. How can we help it? "The POINT" has almost become like a child to us. We spend so much time with it, defend it from the criticism of others and have watched it grow.

It's time for "The POINT" to continue growing and changing. It's time for me to do the same as well. Thanks for bearing with me.

Sincerely,  
Amy S. Bobrowski  
Editor-in-Chief

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The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and a phone number, in case of questions.

Announcements should be short, including

dates, places, times, and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion, does not necessarily represent the views of The Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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# Only, but not lonely: Growing up an only child

By Kristine McCaffrey

"You're an only child? Are you spoiled?" These are the questions I am asked every time a new acquaintance realizes that I was brought up an only child. Most people are surprised to find out that I do not have any siblings. "You act as if you have brothers and sisters. You're not a spoiled brat." In fact, I try not to bring it up unless someone has gotten to know me.

Only children get a bad rap. They are perceived as "spoiled brats" who are difficult to get along with, selfish and thoughtless when it comes to other people, and are awarded whatever their heart desires by their parents and family members. The question "are you spoiled?" is ridiculous. Does the questioner really think I am going to turn to them and say "Why yes, yes I am a spoiled brat." The question is rude and inconsiderate and I have heard it over and over again throughout my 20 years. Yes, I am the only child in my family, in fact I am the only child outside of my immediate family as well. I

have no first cousins and I am the only daughter, niece and granddaughter.

I was brought up around all adults. During meals, vacations, and visits I was constantly surrounded by adults. I learned to how talk to adults and I learned my place when to speak at the table and when to stay out of the conversation. Being an only child meant that I had to find ways to occupy myself as a child. "Oh poor Kristine," my parents' friends would say, "She doesn't have a brother or sister to keep her company." For a very long time I thought I was missing out on not having a sibling. I thought that brothers and sisters played together, had inside jokes and got along for the most part. This is not always the case.

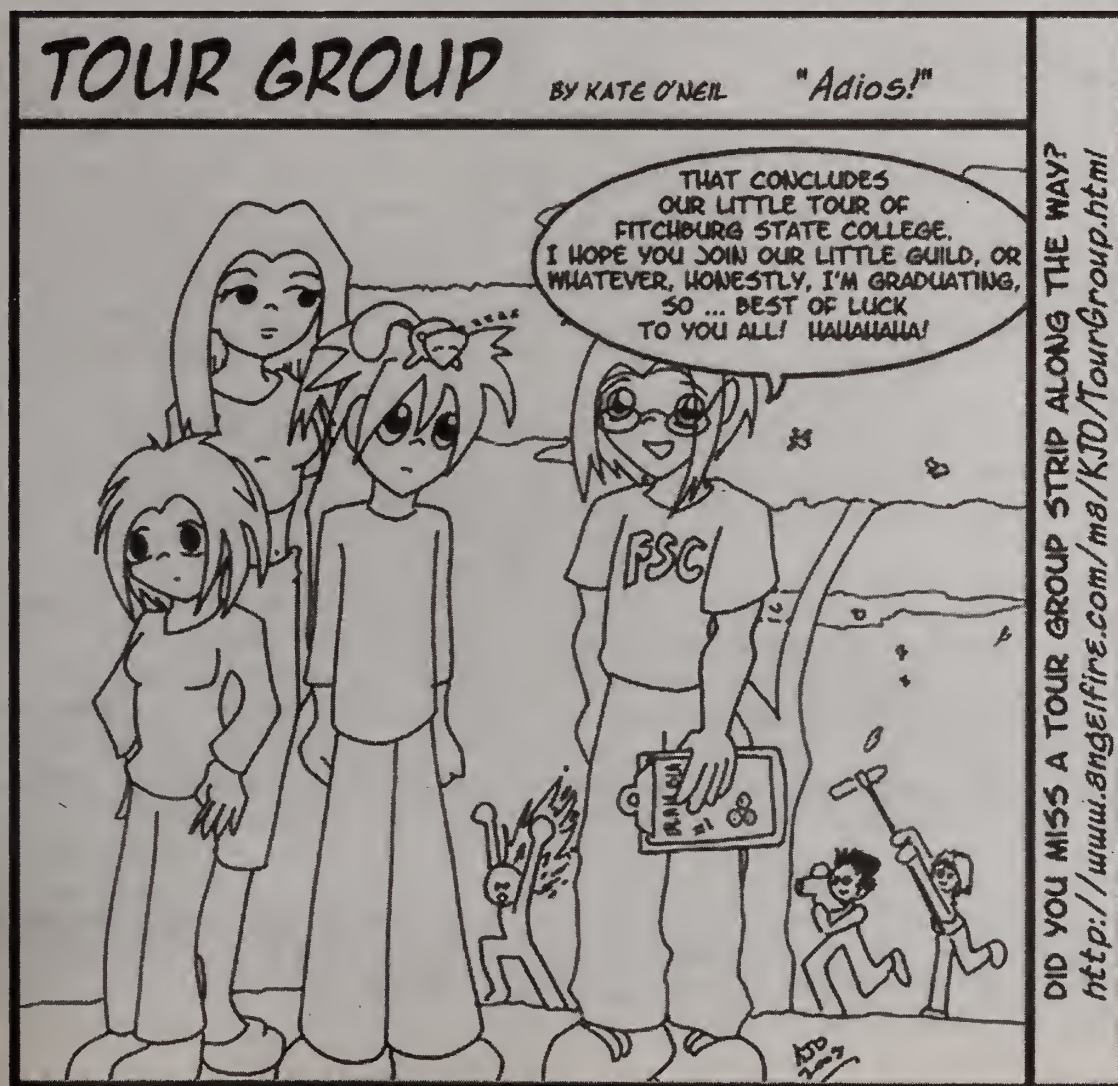
I am often asked if being an only child was lonely for me or if I feel lucky to get everything I want. No it was not lonely. I made things called friends. Being an only child made me go out of my way to be outgoing and independent. I had to rely on myself to take care of things, take responsibility for my action and not blame anyone. Do I feel lucky to be an only child? Yes. I feel lucky

because I feel that my parents made an excellent decision for our family in only having one child.

My family is blue collar. I attend a state college. My parents could not have afforded to have another child. Yes I did get a lot of what I asked for as a child. I had beautiful Christmases and birthdays. I was the one who received my grandmother's car when she could no longer drive. I am fortunate, but not spoiled. The word "spoiled" alludes to me being damaged in some way. That I was not brought up correctly and I have no values that concern others besides myself.

Living in the dorms for the past three years, I have met all types of people. The majority of these people have at least one sibling. I have only met a handful of only children in my lifetime. I have met people who come from huge families, with 6-13 kids. I have met children who are the eldest, middle, the baby or the child somewhere lost in between. Lost is how I describe some of them. I have met college kids who hate to go home to visit their parents. I have met students whose entire tuition bill was thrown in their laps by their parents. I have met people who I have observed to be horrible roommates and act as if they are more important than others. I have seen spoiled brats. They ditch class, waste their parent's money, disturb their neighbors in the middle of the night, and snub people in the hallways. These individuals are not only children. It does not matter if you were brought up with siblings or not. What matters is the job your parents did in raising you.

Yes, I did get a lot of attention growing up. I was my parent's main focus. I was asked where I was going, what I was doing, if I did my homework, if I wrote my thank you cards, if I did my chores and if I found a summer job. If my parents had added a sibling to the mix I don't think I would be the same person I am now. Perhaps I would be more rebellious, perhaps I would be competing with them for attention and recognition, perhaps I would have gotten in more fights as a kid. I believe that my parents valued quality over quantity with parenting. They raised an independent person who know the value of a dollar, the value of respect and who became writer and future journalist, one that would never ask such a rude question as "are you spoiled."





Think about it:

## A letter from the SGA

It seems like only a few weeks ago we were kicking off the school year at Rock the Block. It is hard to believe that soon the dorms will be empty and our seniors will be crossing the stage at commencement.

But before you make your plans to celebrate the end of the school year, take some time to think about it. A quick look at the "Sentinel and Enterprise" over the last few weeks has shown us that FSC is being watched closely by the public. Between the impending budget cuts and the senseless killing on Myrtle Avenue, FSC has been front-page news.

The end of the school year has been a traditional time of celebration at FSC. FUNday on May 3rd kicked off the end of the year activities planned by the college. FSC also had a showing of student films along with the recent film Old School starring Will Ferrell, Drive-In style on the Quad. ASB students were also on the Quad cooking up some hamburgers and hot dogs. The final frenzies offered throughout finals week, were a success as well.

But for those of you who plan to take celebrations off campus, pause for a moment and consider this:

Whether your celebration takes you to Summer Street, Slattery's, or even Landsdowne Street in Boston, you always take Fitchburg State College with you. Whenever you go to an off-campus party or event, you are always a part of the FSC community. The senseless killing a few weeks ago did not involve the death of an FSC student, but it has permanently changed the lives of those who were there and those who were close to the victim. It is a terrible reality of life that these events can happen, but this time, we cannot forget about it. This was not just a 3 minute headline on television, but instead a serious occurrence that happened right here virtually in our backyard.

So when you head out to celebrate the end of the year, whether it is on the Quad at the college events or at some off campus destination, be safe, be smart, and remember that FSC is there with you.

Colleen Montgomery  
President Student Government Association

# Sorry we're closed:

## Clinical Lab Science major cut from FSC

By Stephanie St. Jean

Just recently the Clinical Lab Science major here at FSC was discontinued and students in the major will not be allowed to cycle out of it. The program was shut down because of low enrollment and budget cuts. Dr. Roguski, head of the Clinical Lab department said, "We were originally told we could let the students phase out, now they can't."

The students in the major were given until May 1 to make a decision to stay at Fitchburg State and pick a new major, or go to UMASS Dartmouth or UMASS Lowell to finish their major there. Fitchburg has promised to pay tuition and fees for students who decide to go elsewhere, according to Dr. Roguski.

Many of the students in the major now are freshmen that have only taken the basic courses. The sophomores and juniors have more of a problem since they have taken many more of the required classes for the Clinical Lab Science major.

"This whole situation is a shame," said Dr. Roguski, "Massachusetts is a big industry in healthcare, they'll be continuing to hire and there won't be as many qualified people. All of our senior interns have already been hired on the spot for a job. The hospitals are upset that this program was cut."

Many students chose to come to Fitchburg because of its location. It is close and very convenient for those with families. Student Nicole Sims only has to drive 45 minutes to get here. Now, to go to UMASS Dartmouth, she'll have to drive close to two hours. "I may be forced to stay there and drive home on weekends to be with my son," said Sims.



Clinical Lab Science laboratory exercise.

Janelly Osborne also has children. She was already a student at UMASS Lowell and transferred here because it was more convenient. Now she'll have to go back to Lowell and lose credits since she already has 95. "This is disgusting. I wouldn't have enrolled here if I had known this major would be closing," stated Osborne, "They made me take 20 credits this semester knowing that the major was closing."

When other majors at this college were closed, students already enrolled were able to cycle out. Students in Clinical Lab Science were not given that option. Dr. Roguski believes that this is unfair to the Clinical Lab Students, but nothing can be done about it.

Because of the major closing, students enrolled will now have to spend more time in college than they expected. David McGrath is one student who came here for a four-year education. "I came here for a four year stability. I only got two years and hassle. The school's problems aren't my fault, and now I'm being affected."

Although these students are being inconvenienced, the school isn't directly at fault. The budgets cuts are affecting many people, but the Clinical Lab Science majors got the short end of the stick.



# Educator to deliver commencement address

Fitchburg Mass.- Richard D. Lavoie, one of the nation's leading authorities on learning disabilities, will present the commencement address at Fitchburg State College's 107th commencement on May 24th.

Thousands of students, parents, faculty and friends will gather on the college quadrangle for the 10 a.m. ceremony. Lavoie will also be presented with an honorary degree.

Lavoie, a graduate of Fitchburg State's Special Education Department, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary, served as an administrator of residential programs for children with special needs for many years.

He holds three degrees in special education and has served as an adjunct professor or visiting lecturer at a number of universities, including Syracuse,

Harvard, Gallaudet, Manhattanville College, the University of Alabama and Georgetown. His numerous national television appearances include the "CBS Morning Show," "Good Morning America," "ABC Evening News." And "Disney Channel Presents," and PBS's "Misunderstood Minds."

Lavoie has served as a consultant on learning disabilities to more than 400 school systems in 42 states, as well as a variety of agencies and organizations, including the Public Broadcasting Service, The New York Times, the National Center for Learning Disabilities, Girl Scouts of America, and Child Magazine. He is a member of the Professional Advisor Board of the Learning Disabilities Association.

Through an extensive public speaking schedule, he has made pre-

sentations to more than 500,000 parents and professionals throughout North America. He has the distinction of having delivered keynote addresses for all three of the major special needs advocacy organizations in the United States, the Learning Disabilities Association, the Council for Exceptional Children, and Children with Attention Deficit Disorder.

Lavoie is probably best known for his videos 'Hoe Difficult Can This Be?,' "The F.A.T. City Workshop" and "Last One Picked, First One Picked On: The Social Implications Of Learning Disabilities." These award-winning films have brought Lavoie's compelling message to thousands worldwide. After viewing the videos, former First Lady Barbara Bush commented, "You

really wowed us! I only wish that every parent and teacher in the United States today could also see your program." His most recent video on behavior management is titled "When the Chips are Down..."

For many years, Lavoie was president of the Riverview School on Cape Cod. The residential school provided him with a "living laboratory" where he developed and refined his methods and philosophies related to the education of adolescents with special needs.

In addition to his bachelor's degree from Fitchburg State, Lavoie holds a master's in special education from Assumption College and a master's in special education administration from Fordham University. Commencement speaker

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## Elections bring full Student Government

By Melissa Ganley

Each spring the Student Government Association holds elections for the Executive and Commuter Board positions. This year's elections were held on April 22, 23, 24. Although many of the candidates ran unopposed, the majority of the positions were filled.

The executive board for next year will include Colleen Montgomery as President and Pete Daost as Vice President. Colleen is an Elementary Major and an Interdisciplinary Major as well as being a part of the Leadership Academy. She was recently inducted into Kappa Delta Psi, the Education Honor Society, and is also a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, a Honor Society for students who receive a 3.5 or above in their Freshman year. Along with her outstanding academic record, Colleen has also participated in the Alternative Spring Break program for the past two years and is a building manager in the Hammond

Campus Center. As a freshman she served as secretary for her class, as class vice president her sophomore year, and is currently the secretary of SGA. Pete is a sophomore Nursing Major. He currently works as a campus van driver, as part of the Event Service Staff, and in the Volunteer Center. He formally served as President of the Class of 2005, but was asked to step up to the Vice President of SGA position at the beginning of this year in order to fill a vacant spot.

The rest of the board is comprised of Elizabeth Boucart as Treasurer, Vatche Arabian as Secretary, and Adam Keyes as the Student Trustee.

The class of 2004 will be represented by Andrea Nykiel as President, Greg Keefe as Vice President, Matt Germaine as Treasurer, Lisa Clarke as Secretary, and Nick D'Asencio as a representative. Voted into office for the class of 2005 was Nathan Forest for President, Brandy Leblanc for Vice President, Gary Dupree for Treasurer, and Colleen Ward for Secretary. And

the class of 2006 will be represented by Danielle Corsino as President, Patrick Pho as Vice President, Ashley Keiser as Treasurer, Elizabeth Brunelle as Secretary, and Tyler Schonmaker, Erik Anderson, Robert Lavoie, and Amanda Lacoture as representatives. And Zohar Badenhansen was elected as the President of the Commuter Board for next year.

In years past there has also been a Public Information Director position on the Executive Board, however since nobody ran for the position the current executive board voted to eliminate the position. Some of the duties of the position were distributed among other positions, while the majority of them will now fall upon the Secretary. As it stood before, many of the duties of the two positions overlapped anyways. One of the Public Information Director duties was to organize the spring elections, this job will now be that of the senior class.

There are still open positions for

representatives for the classes of 2004 and 2005, as well as positions on the Commuter Board and representative for each of the residence halls.

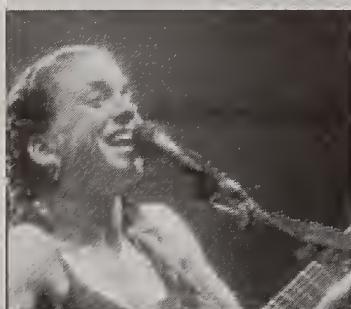
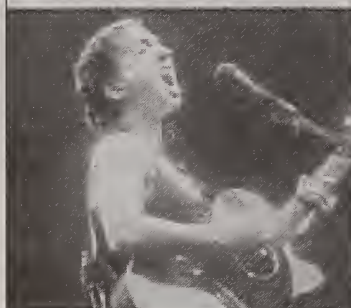
During the course of next year the SGA will be working hard to build a good relationship with the new president as well as implement programs that give students a chance to have their voices heard on issues that involve them and their school. This is an effort to make the entire college community more comfortable with each other. "We really want the student body to be aware of who we are and that we represent all of them, not just the ones we know. We want the students to come to our meetings and tell us their concerns and let us work on them," said Colleen.

During the summer SGA Secretary Vatche Arabian will be working on an SGA webpage that will provide information about the officers and activities sponsored by SGA.



## DiFranco is still Evolving

By Stephanie St Jean



In March, Righteous Babe Records released Ani DiFranco's newest album "Evolve." "Evolve" has a bit of a jazzy sound to it, much unlike her pervious folk and funk sounds on pervious albums. DiFranco seems to always be broadening her horizons and experimenting with new music styles. I really enjoyed her newest album because the music was nothing like I usually listen to. It was a refreshing change to the music that is out there these days. Ani really lives up to the name of her record label "Righteous Babe".

"Evolve" includes the songs "Promised Land," "In the Way," "Icarus," "Serpentine," and "Welcome to." Unlike much of Ani's older albums that included only voice and guitar, this album features instruments of all types. Instruments used on this album include guitar, piano, melodies, organ, clarinet, saxophone, clarinet, flute, bass, drums and percussion, trumpet and flugelhorn.

"In the Way" offers some interesting lyrics that really caught my attention,

"No you didn't just leave, I actually kicked you out. I couldn't hardly believe the words come out of my mouth. You couldn't hardly believe what you heard yourself discuss. And you packed up all your things and said goodbye to us. Tell me, what is in the way, in the way of my love for you? There's something in the way, in the way of my love." I loved these lyrics because they really speak out about relationship difficulties and how we struggle to figure out what went wrong.

DiFranco has a way with speaking to people through her words. She speaks of many political issues in her music such as opposing the death penalty, women's reproductive rights, preserving historic buildings in her hometown, and promoting gay and lesbian rights. She's not one to run from controversial issues and sings loud and proud about each one respectively. This is what makes her so well liked.

DiFranco is willing to speak her mind about anything and is not worried about what anyone thinks. She is not shy using swear words, especially the f-word. You can find words such as this all over her music, not matter what album you choose to listen to.

DiFranco began her career in Buffalo, New York in the mid 1980's. She had a record deal by 1990 and since then has released 15 full-length albums "Evolve" being her newest. Many of those albums made the *Billboard* charts and she has received 4 Grammy nominations.

"Evolve" really caught my attention, and it's one of Ani's best yet.

## Listen to This:

### FSC Jazz Band making beautiful music

By Natalie Wisenbaker

Natalie Barbrie knows it's not required for her major. Some believe it's not even necessary. She and other student participants will probably not become professionals at it, and they might not even get a chance to do it much, if at all, after they graduate. It requires hours of group preparation and even many more hours of practice individually. It demands teamwork extraordinaire but without the accolades customarily reserved for those in athletics. At Fitchburg State College there is no major for it or scholarships to recruit participants to it. There is just the satisfaction of doing it and for some that's enough to bring them back time and time again; semester after semester, year after year, decade after decade.

Its jazz, baby. And more importantly, it's Jazz Band. Like the Concert Band, Chamber Ensembles, Concert Choir, and Chamber Choir in the Fitchburg State College Humanities Department, Jazz Band provides a unique opportunity for students, faculty, alumni, and community members to come together for the purpose of making music. But according to the members what they get in return is so much more.

In music room 157 of the Conlon Building there are terraced rows that lead down to a bottom level almost completely taken up with a large, shiny black baby grand piano. The matching black specks in the worn orange carpeting imply that music began here decades ago. Desks on the rows are pushed aside to make room for the forty feet that are firmly planted on these terraces where memories grow. An occasional shoe is seen tapping the beat. Depending on their instrument, some sit on the bottom step while the others stand.

All attention is on the man in front, a slim 40-something Jazz musician and music scholar educated at Berklee and Boston University. His words give away that English was not his first language, and although Italy claims his roots, Dr. Caniato's passion for Jazz led him to the States many years ago. Now, standing before these twenty-one musicians with a thirty year age span, his task is bringing together their various levels of talent and musicianship. Patience and a passion for the art of jazz are two of his noteworthy qualities. This is Tuesday night FSC Jazz band rehearsal and there is only one and a half hours each week to get it all together.

When Natalie Barberi slides her trombone it appears if stood on end the horn would be as tall as she is. With precision she can detonate a thunderous, meaty note that defies her size. She says she plays music for the "enjoyment of it" and because it's "relaxing." Anyone who sees her play knows from the bounce in her torso that she feels every note. A freshman film major, Natalie is excited about Jazz Band and likes to think its presence "makes FSC a more well-rounded institution."

Dave LeBlanc has been playing with FSC bands for the better part of twenty-seven years. He first played the clarinet and saxophone, but the late Dr. Frank Patterson (FSC's long-time Band Director) turned him on to playing bass and that's been his passion ever since. His long salt-and-pepper curly hair reveals his age but his commitment and dedication to the band shows his maturity. Dave agrees with Natalie that participation is "relaxing." Perhaps he gets even more than that out of it since he has been coming back for so long.

"Li'l Darlin'" is the first piece for this rehearsal and it is a smooth slow-dance. This big band hit is reminiscent of a different era that most here have only read about. This mellow tune is followed by a very hip and Jazzy number, "Papa's Gotta Brand New Bag." Several trumpeters have the opportunity to "improv" on this piece. Improv is short for improvisation and means that the musician has a specified period of time to "do his or her own thing" in the middle of a song. The variety in improv among these musicians is amazing. This freedom to express one's self in the music is a hallmark of Jazz. Dr. C reminds the soloists that "you must rehearse improv to get appropriate chords and structure."

One FSC alum, Jeffery Atherton '84, is known for his high pitch and energetic attacks on the trumpet. His improv takes on a completely different sound than the other two. Jeff calls music "a universal language," and adds, "it keeps us human." Rosalyn Odor is a non-traditional student from Nigeria and plays percussion. This "universal language" opened the door for Rosalyn's involvement in an extra-curricular activity. "It makes you feel comfortable and good" she proclaims with a very big smile. Natalie adds, "It makes you a better student! Studies have shown that students who play an instrument make higher test scores."

Continued on page 7



By Alyson Robichaud

"Remember when I said it don't come easy? That seems so long ago." -Ringo Starr, "Eye to Eye"

It's been 32 years since Ringo Starr's "It Don't Come Easy" single was released, but time has not affected this former Beatle. His latest album "Ringo Rama" proves that alone or with a little help from his friends, Starr has not lost his ability to rock.

Released March 25, "Ringo Rama" is Starr's follow up to 1998's "Vertical Man," which was produced by Mark Hudson and Starr. The two collaborated again to produce "Ringo Rama," and the albums have a similar feel. For fans who remember "Sentimental Journey" and other weak solo albums, Starr's newest approach is welcome and reminds listeners why we still listen.

"Ringo Rama" is full of gems for fans. Most notable is the single "Never Without You," a tribute to former Beatle George Harrison, who died in 2001. Starr's sentimentality shows as he sings, "I know all things must pass, and only love with last, I'll always love the memory of you and me." Starr has Eric Clapton, who he had been a close friend of Harrison's, play a beautiful guitar solo on the track that completes the heartfelt song. The tributes do not end there; hidden on "Missouri Loves Company" is a tribute to Harry Nilsson.

The songs have clever titles, such as "Trippin' On My Own Tears," "I Think Therefore I Rock N' Roll," and "Love First, Ask Questions Later." Throughout the album, close listeners can hear Starr refer to other songs, such as "Peggy Sue," "Ain't That A Shame," and "Blue Suede Shoes." Mentions of songs from his former band mates can also be heard, which are fun to find and a nod



that seems to say Starr has not forgotten them.

There is a little nugget of pure Starr in the bonus track "I Really Love Her," which he sings and performs alone. As for the rest of the album, Starr's band is a group he calls The Roundheads, consisting of Hudson, Gary Burr, Steve Dudas, Jim Cox, and Dean Grakal. As with "Vertical Man," guests can be heard throughout the album, this time including Eric Clapton, Willie Nelson, David Gilmour, Charlie Haden, Shawn Colvin, Van Dyke Parks and Timothy B. Schmidt.

In 2003, Starr is in as fine form as he was in the 1960s. "Ringo Rama" is a strong album lyrically and musically. For fans of "Vertical Man," this is an excellent album in a similar style that only gets better with each listen. The CD comes with a bonus DVD, "Ringo Rama Land." It includes lyrics, and an informational and humorous documentary about the making of the CD.

## *Jazz Band creates 'sense of community and friendship'*

Continued from page 6

Students and non-students alike donate time and money to represent FSC in the Jazz Band. As they pack up their six trumpets, four saxophones, five trombone, electric bass and guitar, drum set, bongos, rattles, and amplifiers, there is a sense of anticipation that they will come together again soon in this place. They will create a bit of magic and memories here again on this worn orange carpet. But some are wondering "for how long?"

The bigger question has no easy answer. Will they continue? Will their value be recognized by an Administration required to trim millions off the school budget? The Alumni Office knows the value of keeping our graduates plugged into the campus activities. Does the Administration see the same value?

Do students like Natalie Barbrie, Rosalyn Odor, Samantha Baker, Robin Kanter, Tim Padden, Andy Crosby, Scott Jackson, Mike Villani, Jon Jones need to have this opportunity as part of their "well-rounded" education? Does the contribution from faculty

members Peter Hogan and Noah Yannie add to their overall involvement on campus? Does FSC want alumni like Jeff Atherton, Paul Gervais, Lois Westerback, and Dave LeBlanc to stay involved? And what about other students and community members like Sam Rauhala, Mike Babineau, Gene Rauhala, John Perko and Jo-Anne Gerde. The last three are well-known professionals in this area. Should FSC students have the opportunity to learn along side these that give their special expertise to the ensemble?

Dr. C sums it up by stating that band brings "a sense of community and friendships." He also points out that students develop "discipline, time management, and the ability to listen." Licking his right thumb, as he always does, and then raising both arms, Dr. C begins the next piece. Sounds like all will be ready for the May 1<sup>st</sup> gig.

The Jazz and Concert Bands presented their final concert Thursday night, May 1. Many attended to show support and enjoy the music of the Jazz Band.



## *'X-2' successfully reunites film to true comic book story*

By Roger Roy

Before the first "X-Men" hit theaters, many fans were concerned for the devoted adaptation of the comic book to the big screen, since so many times before were comics lost in the transition. "Batman" and "Superman" were success because everyone knew about them even if they read the comics or not. But shall we not forget "The Punisher" with Dolph Lundgren and how much that stunk or the dreadful "Captain America"... actually. Let us forget those.

After "X-Men" became an enormous success, fans waited for the second installment of the new comic franchise. Three years later, it arrives in theaters with no faults about it.

Directed by Bryan Singer, "X-Men 2" stays true to the first film and the comics. Sometime after the happenings of the first film, another enemy again challenges the mutants, this time in General William Stryker (Brian Cox) who plans to rid the world of all mutants.

With the actions scenes and the storyline covering most angles of the comic, there was very little that was missed in this adaptation. All the mutants that survived the first film came back to this one, including the same actors reprising their now famous roles. Being added to the cast this time around Nightcrawler (Alan Cumming) and Deathstrike (Kelly Hu).

What was the most impressive aspects of "X2" is that the story never loses focus and that there were layers of depth given to the characters themselves, giving them a feel for what is reality.

Destined to impress, "X2"'s dedication by the cast and crew will make any fan jump and cheer out of the seats at the movie's end.



## Style with Holly Johnson

And so here in the great city of Fitchburg we are always looking for things to do. There seems to be a severe lack of things to occupy our time. Located only 18 miles down the road is a trendy club called Liquid Sky. Liquid Sky is located on 144 Commercial Street in Worcester (behind the Centrum). Outside the windows and front are covered in a beautiful wood, giving it an ultra modern style. Don't let the old style wood fool you, there is a chic party inside. Too often we are used to plastic seats and uncomfortable bar stools. Inside a club-goer can enjoy a drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) with friends on beautiful couches, comfortable seats and tables. If you are more of the dancing type there is a large dance floor and astonishing sound system powered by Avalon speakers, and a great laser light show. I recently had the chance speak with the owner of the club Arthur Souza:

**Q:** Art, what does Liquid Sky offer that other clubs in Worcester don't?

**A:** Well, I'm a big fan of dance clubs myself. I've always felt what makes a great dance club is a great sound system, amazing lights, and a DJ that knows how to get the crowd going. I think in Worcester, the city is filled with bars with small dance floors in the corner. Liquid Sky is a real dance club with a sound system and light show you won't find anywhere in the area.

**Q:** What kind of atmosphere is it? Decor?

**A:** When we designed the club we went back and forth over the furniture. In the end we decided

on something comfortable but durable. The club has lots of steel in it and the tables and bars are covered with a Wilson Art's laminate called Water. Very comfortable and cool look.

**Q:** What kind of music is played?

**A:** We do a little bit of everything, but I'd say we're 70% hip hop with a small mix of top 40, dance, and house music. On Sundays it's different. Sundays is our Goth fetish night and we play, Goth industrial, and some old classic new wave all night long.

**Q:** Hmm...Goth well to each his own, do you have any special theme nights, parties or contests?

**A:** Yes, we have theme parties all the time. We've had a couple of Halloween parties (my favorite holiday), a Pimp n' Ho party, and a few weeks had something called Wild Kingdom on our Sunday nights where people came dressed up like animals. Over the next few weeks we're having a Beach Party and on the 16th of May a Disco party.

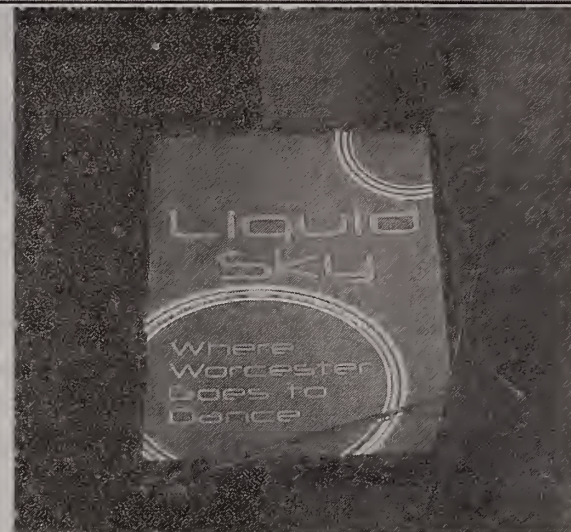
**Q:** Everyone likes to look great at the club. Is there anything you can't wear?

**A:** Just no do rags and athletic clothing.

**Q:** As people say, the name is intriguing what made you think of it?



As students we want to wear fashionable, comfortable and affordable clothing and accessories. No longer will you have to buy those expensive magazines because here in The Point we will be including a new column entitled "style" written by Holly Johnson. Included in the column will be weekly advice on fashion, trendy places to hangout and dine, interesting ways to decorate your living space and entertain your guests.



**A:** Ahh...Liquid Sky is the name of a classic cult movie from the early 80's. I use to see it all the time when I was in college living in Cambridge.

There you have it. What more can you ask for? A stylish club, modern décor and great music. Students of FSC we are going to receive a special deal. Art gave me some flyers for \$2.00 off the cover charge. So for \$3.00 you can enjoy a new club email: [hollieiv@yahoo.com](mailto:hollieiv@yahoo.com) to be added to the guest list. (This offer is good for the summer as well) Can't wait to see you there!

## Classified Classified Classified Classified

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Good Luck to Julie and

*The Point*

staff next year.

From,  
Amy & Andy



# MASSPIRG raises money for hungry and homeless

By Tim Card

On April 12, the students of MASSPIRG held a special event to raise money for the hungry and homeless. Approximately 40 students and volunteers from FSC and Mount Wachusett Community College helped out, in spite of foreboding weather that morning.

The event kicked off with speeches by Clint Talbert, Dean of Students Kathleen Simons, and yours truly, Tim Card. Our student members created special t-shirts to commemorate the event, showcasing their artistic talents (or lack thereof) for all to see. All proceeds went toward the alleviation of hunger and homelessness, with most of the money going to Our Father's House, in Fitchburg.

As part of our program, we created information packets on various issues and how to write letters to local papers and elected officials. We challenged participants to continue working to improve our community after the day's event, by pressuring politicians to do the right thing. Political pressure is a crucial component of MASSPIRG's efforts, and it has led to victories, like

increased funding for student financial aid and reductions in ATM surcharges. Political pressure often achieves results, which last far longer than local action, like our community cleanup day.

Our volunteers split up into teams to help out at each site. One team cleaned up the Civic Center parking lot and Baker's Brook. Another team worked on helping the Gardner Visiting Nurses Association, on Main Street. Our third group traveled to the Good Shepherd Church, in West Fitchburg, to create a room for the new interfaith program, which will provide rotating lodging for the homeless in area churches. Later, a group of students visited Our Father's House, to install lights and help with maintenance.

It's hard to say which group had the most fun. Working outside, at the Civic Center turned out to be better than we could have imagined, as rain clouds parted and sunlight shined down. As people flocked to the Civic Center for a local carnival, many of them asked us what we were doing and said they appreciated our efforts. It was worth cleaning up the area, just to guess what the heck people had been doing there.

We found a stray ski, a full jar of mayonnaise, countless bottles and a large metal monstrosity that resembled the Soviet "Sputnik" satellite. Other things we found are better left unmentioned. It is rather shocking to imagine how many people seemed to simply dump their trash near Baker's Brook, instead of finding the nearest dumpster.

It was very satisfying to see families leaving the Carnival take their children to play in the areas we had just cleaned. One of the leaders of the Nashua River Watershed Association stopped by to thank us.

It looks like the people at Good Shepherd Church had a great time as well. Every one of them returned covered with paint, including our campus organizer, Clint Talbert. Sources at the Good Shepherd said they had never seen a room (or a person) painted so quickly!

Ashley Oliveira helped to organize the Gardner VNA team. Since then, she has been elected as secretary of the MASSPIRG student board. Ashley will now be helping to run MASSPIRG throughout the state. This is an organization where the most crucial decisions are made by the students, and it provides fan-

tastic leadership opportunities, which are generally hard to find in other student organizations.

Kristy Webster, of Mount Wachusett Community College, brought her young son to help out at the Gardner VNA. He was not only a hard worker, but also a great artist, and did a nice job coloring his mommy's t-shirt. MASSPIRG is up for reaffirmation this year at the Mount, and we have worked very hard to create displays, posters and good will.

As we finished the day, we enjoyed an ice cream social. We were entertained by the talented Gina Basinski, who did the "MASSPIRG Rap" with Clint and several of our students. It was a nice way to finish a day of hard, but very satisfying work.

Unfortunately, Clint Talbert will not be returning next year. He has returned to Texas, to devote more time to his other interest: writing. Clint did a fine job as our MASSPIRG organizer, helping us to organize many successful events and creating a strong sense of fellowship, among MASSPIRG students. MASSPIRG wishes Clint the best in the future; we'll really miss him.

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## FIRST FSC STAR SEARCH TALENT SHOW GREAT SUCCESS!

By Eileen A. Hamm

Three evenings of fun, entertainment, and competition ended with a tie for first place. The first FSC Spring Star Search Talent Show, hosted by the English Club, was a huge success. Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed themselves and commented that they hope this becomes a yearly event.

The judges were talent scouts from the John Robert Powers Model & Talent Agency out of Boston and Worcester. Owner, Kathy Rooney, was impressed with the caliber of the talent she saw at FSC. She and Kevin Steina have judged many talent shows and find that they often fidget uncomfortably in their seats as they agonizingly wait for competitors to finish their act. Both were excited that this was not the case during both evenings of elimination competition. In fact, they found that the difficulty presented itself in attempting to eliminate competitors because they were so good.

These scouts actually took the time at the end of each evening of competition to speak individually with the competitors. They offered advice and pointers on how to improve their pieces before the final night of competition. What was even more amazing was that they took the extra time to speak with competitors who were not chosen so that they could also work on their weak areas.

On the final evening of competition, 11 finalists vied for the top three places. The judges knew that choosing would be difficult, but they were amazed at how all the competitors took their pointers of the previous two evenings and applied these suggestions to the improvement of their acts. It made judging these final acts very challenging.

At the end of the evening, while competitors waited anxiously in the lobby, the judges agonized over their choices. Two people had tied for first place and a decision was made to offer both

a scholarship and a first place prize. They interviewed the two contestants individually and were finally ready to make their decisions.

The results of the first FSC Spring Star Search Talent Show are as follows:

- Tiffany Long — Scholarship Award
- Colby Lasorsa — 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Cash Award
- Sarone Kruoch, Jamie Buford, & Lorraine Lacorps — 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Cash Award
- Amber P. Knight — 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Cash Award

In addition to the above awards, Sarone was also offered a job opportunity to teach dance with the John Robert Powers Model & Talent Agency.

The English Club thanks the FSC community for a very successful 2002-2003 year and hopes that you will continue to support the many programs that will be offered by the Club under its new leadership in 2003-2004.







# Baseball beats UMASS Boston

Continued from Page 12

Sadofsky. McGonagle was walked to first base and later on stole second base. DiCenso grounded out to the short stop and McGonagle advanced to third. Tekela struck out swinging. McGonagle went on to score, giving UMASS the early lead. Fitchburg was up at bat.

FSC was unproductive the first inning. O'Brien flied out to right field and Sullivan singled to left center. Milleisen flied out to left field. Sullivan stole second but did not make it in to score. Torres fouled out to left field. UMASS still had the lead going into the second inning.

UMASS was back up at bat and Burch singled out to center field.

King reached on a fielder's choice and Burch was tagged out. McGonagle was back at bat and batted in a run to the center field, allowing for King to score. UMASS was now up by two runs.

Raymond doubled down the left field line and LeBlanc walked. Ruth grounded out to the pitcher and LeBlanc advanced to second. Later in the inning, Raymond advanced to third and Colon flied out to right field bringing in a one, only to give UMASS a lead by one. Raymond scored for FSC. Shafer reached on a fielding error by the second base player and LeBlanc scored. The game was now tied at two.

Innings three and four were uneventful for both teams. Neither scored any runs and the teams were still tied at two. Fifth inning came around and UMASS's DiCenso grounded out to the third base and Tekela singled to center field. Tekela took base and later on stole second. Waxman grounded out to the short stop and

Tekela advanced to third. Stish popped one out and the inning ended. FSC stepped up and was ready to bring in some runs.

Colon walked to first and Shafer singled through the right side. Colon advanced to third base and was in scoring position. O'Brien flied out to center field and Colon scored. Sullivan singled to right center and Shafer advanced to third. Milleisen flied out to left field and Sullivan advanced to second on a balk. Shafer scored on a balk and Torres grounded out to the short stop. FSC was now up by two runs, taking the score to four to two.

Mogan came into pitch for Lawless. Colon lined out to right field and Shafer tripled to center field. Shafer scored on a wild pitch and O'Brien singled to left field. Sullivan lined into double play right field to first base.

9th inning came and FSC kept up the work they would go on to win the game. Conway singled to third base and Ingalls singled through the left side. Conway advanced to second and Billings came in to pitch for Freeman. McGonagle reached on a fielder's choice and Ingalls was out at second. Conway advanced to third and McGonagle advanced to second on a wild pitch. Conway scored on the wild pitch and DiCenso singled to third base. McGonagle advanced to third and scored on the error. Only two runs were scored in the ninth for UMASS and FSC went on to win the game nine to eight.

The baseball team had a great season and we look forward to watching them in the future. Good luck at the MASCAC's!

## Falcons take five titles

By Orlando Claffey

The Falcon runnings had their final race of the season, heading to Rhode Island College in Providence for the MASCAC Championship Meet.

The FSC women finished second, while the men finished third, but the meet was marked by individual efforts.

Courtney Kelly not only won the 100 meter race, but also set a MASCAC record in the process, finishing in 12.52 seconds. Dominique Smallwood also took home a conference title for the women, winning the Triple Jump.

The men had three conference champs. Freshman Chris Keegan won the 800 meter race, Dan Savukoski won the 10,000 meter race and Matt Germain won the 1,500 meter race for the Falcons.

# WWE puts Worcester in a Boston Crab

By Roger Roy

On Sun., Apr. 27, the World Wrestling Entertainment, the WWE, came to Worcester Massachusetts and the Worcester Centrum. In a rarity, the WWE's Backlash pay-per-view was held here. With a packed Centrum and a good line-up, this PPV was aimed to please. Here is a brief run down.

With the return of Goldberg a few weeks ago on television, Goldberg picked up right where he left off two years ago when he dominated the sad World Championship Wrestling. Making his first appearance on a WWE pay-per-view, Goldberg got his revenge and defeated The Rock. Goldberg leveled The People's Champion with three spears and fin-

ished off the Great One with a devastating maneuver - called the Jackhammer!

World Heavyweight Champion Triple H secured the win for his team (Triple H, Ric Flair and Chris Jericho) by nailing his former good friend Kevin Nash with a sledgehammer, whose team of Shawn Michaels and Booker T could do nothing but only watch the pinfall.

When John Cena took on the huge Brock Lesner, only a few expected Cena to win. Sadly or gratefully, Cena lost and Brock Lesner came out on top, retaining his WWE Championship belt in a slow, but moving match up.

Female wrestler Jazz took the Women's Championship away from Trish Stratus by cheating. Surely

there will be a rematch.

For the WWE Tag Titles Team Angle took on Los Guerreros and won. Has payback, Los Guerreros stole the belts and ran off, leaving Team Angle in shock.

Very little Rey Mysterio took on the much taller Big Show, hitting him with all her has and with three consecutive 619s. When Big Show finally caught his opponent, he finished the match with a chokeslam. Mysterio was then called for medical attention.

While being escorted out on a stretcher, the most notable event of the evening happened. Big Show came back out to the arena, took Mysterio off the stretcher while still on the medical board, and threw him into the ring post only to have

Mysterio's head bounce off the ground.

The Sean O'Haire/Rikishi match up has a background story for this match happened nearly 20 years ago when Rowdy Roddy Piper took a coconut to "Superfly" Snuka's head. With Piper being in O'Haire's corner and Rikishi being a relative of Snuka who was out for revenge, naturally fought. In the end it was Piper who had a coconut to his head and O'Haire who got the win.

Going into the match Kane and Rob Van Dam didn't know what to expect from special referee Chief Morley. Instead what they got was Morley accidentally hitting Bubba Ray Dudley, which caused Morley to receive the 3D, and Kane and RVD with the win.



# Point SPORTS

Fitchburg State College Athletics

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## Baseball wins a close one against UMASS Boston

By Robin L. Kanter

On May 1, 2003, FSC took the field against the University of Massachusetts Boston. FSC went on to win nine to eight. With roughly 50 people in the stands, it was bound to be an interesting game. Pitching for the Falcons was Christopher Dove. He pitched five innings and allowed only nine

hits. The Falcons all star lined was made up of O'Brien, Sullivan, Milleisen, Torres, Raymond, LeBlanc, Ruth, Colon and Shafer.

UMASS started with McGonagle, DiCenso, Tekela, Waxman, Stish, Burch, King, Conway, Stockwell, and pitching was

Continued on Page 11

## Softball MASCAC Champions Beat MCLA 8-0 in final game

By Orlando Claffey

Coming off an outstanding 12-2 season, the FSC softball team had high expectations coming to their 2003 campaign. Unfortunately, their league rivals did not.

The Lady Falcons were ranked third in a preseason poll, and that prediction proved true, with the team finishing the season with a record of 9-5 behind Bridgewater and Westfield. Three of the team's five losses came at the hands of these two opponents.

That was why it was a bit of a shock for the Falcons, not only to win their first round game in the MASCAC tournament against Westfield, but to then go on to beat Massachusetts College

two out of three times to earn themselves the MASCAC Championship.

The Lady Falcons cruised through the first round Westfield match up, beating the second seed 3-0. Next they faced off against Massachusetts College. MCLA entered the tournament as the fourth seed, and held the defending champion Bridgewater to a 1-1 tie into the ninth inning before scoring four runs to win the game.

FSC took the second round battle 4-2, earning a spot in the conference finals, but MCLA returned for more after again beating Bridgewater in the double elimination tournament.

The tables turned on the Falcons as MCLA's offense shelled FSC number two starter Kristen Bissonnette in the third inning, giving the fourth seed a sizable lead that FSC couldn't overcome with MCLA's ace, Jen Golden pitching.

The loss put the Falcons on even footing with MCLA. The two remaining teams had one loss, and played a final game to determine the MASCAC champion. I obviously already told

you that Fitchburg won, but here's how.

Pitching for Fitchburg was their own ace, Jennifer Neslusan, who had a 2.80 ERA heading into the playoffs and was third in the league with 81 strikeouts. She proved her ability early this game too, with three straight pop-ups to retire the side in the first inning.

After six quiet innings against Golden in the previous game, the Falcon bats came alive in the

first two innings with nine hits and driving in seven runs, highlighted by Alyssa Freda's two RBI single to right and Lisa Chamberlain's two hits, one RBI and two runs scored. By the end of the second inning, MCLA's starting pitcher Jessica Sinopoli had been replaced by the tired,

yet deterimed Golden, but it was too little too late.

Fitchburg had a commanding seven run lead, and with Neslusan on the mound for FSC, MCLA couldn't even scrach at it. The Freshman only allowed two base runners all game. One on a hit down the left field line in the second, and the other reached on an error. The Falcon ace only had four strikeouts and relied heavily on the defensive plays from leftfielder Kristen Bissonnette and shortstop Erica Dusombre to produce the one-hit performance.

This was the softball teams first MASCAC championship, but more importantly, the first women's team from FSC ever to earn a bid to the NCAA tournament. The Lady Falcons now must face conference champions from throughout the Northeast region for a chance to play for the NCAA division III championship in Salem Virginia. The game dates and locations have yet to be announced, but keep your eye on the athletic department's website at <http://raven.fsc.edu/athletics/>.

***This was the softball team's first MASCAC championship, but more importantly, the first women's team from FSC ever to earn a bid to the NCAA tournament.***

## Spring is here so grab a bike and head outside

By Janine Pedro

As spring approaches and the warmer weather sets in, some people begin to get what many call spring fever. This is the intense desire to spend increasing amount of time outside of daydreaming. Spring, a time of new beginnings, is the perfect time to try out a new sport or join a local outdoor group, who encourages beginners. Many opportunities reside right here on campus.

For those interested in long endurance type of adventures should check out the Wapack Trail. The Wapack Trail is a 21-mile trail that summits on several area mountains. Including Pack Monadnock, Middle Pack Monadnock, and South Pack Monadnock.

If you own or have considered buying a mountain bike a small membership fee of \$20 puts you in touch with hundreds of other mountain bikers who meet regular for rides through NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association). The various fun riders held throughout the riding season (typically April through October) are free to members.

Check into state parks for more opportunities of camping, biking, hunting, and fishing. Many parks in Massachusetts and New Hampshire are open to both mountain biking and hiking. Leominster State Forest is open to both the wheeled and unwheeled. A short drive down Route two to Carlisle, Massachusetts is Great Brook State Park. It has over 18 miles of trail open to mountain bikers with all of them open to hikers. In southern New Hampshire, Mine Falls Park in Nashua has many of its trails open to mountain bikers and hikers.

Whether you are a beginner or an outdoor expert there are varieties of outdoor adventures you can partake in. There is a variety of sports out there to try, why not try one today!